

THE MONTHLY EPITOME,

For SEPTEMBER 1798.

LXXI. *A Voyage of Discovery to the North Pacific Ocean, and round the World*; in which the Coast of North West America has been carefully examined and accurately surveyed. Undertaken by his Majesty's Command, principally with a View to ascertain the Existence of any navigable Communication between the North Pacific and North Atlantic Oceans; and performed in the Years 1790, 1791, 1792, 1793, 1794, and 1795, in the Discovery Sloop of War, and armed Tender Chatham, under the Command of Captain GEORGE VANCOUVER. 3 vol. royal 4to. pp. 1441, and a folio volume of Charts and Headlands. 6l. 6s. Robinson, Edwards.

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Engraved by Landseer, Heath, Pouncy, and Fittler.

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EXTRACT FROM THE EDITOR'S ADVERTISEMENT.

"AS a considerable delay has necessarily taken place in the publication of this work, in consequence of the decease of the late Captain Vancouver, it becomes of absolute necessity to give an accurate account of the state of the work at the period when his last fatal indisposition rendered him incapable of attending any more to business; lest the melancholy event which has retarded its completion should tend to affect its authenticity in the public opinion.

"The two first volumes, excepting the introduction, and as far as page 288 of the third and last volume, were printed; and Captain Vancouver had finished a laborious examination of the impression, and had compared it with the engraved charts and headlands of his discoveries, from the commencement of his survey in the year 1791, to the conclusion of it at the port of Valparaíso, on his return to England in the

the year 1795. He had also prepared the introduction, and a further part of the journal as far as page 408 of the half volume. The whole, therefore, of the important part of the work, which comprehends his geographical discoveries and improvements, is now presented to the public, exactly as it would have been had Captain Vancouver been still living. The notes which he had made on his journey from the port of Valparaíso to his arrival at St. Jago de Chili, the capital of that kingdom, were unfortunately lost; and I am indebted to Captain Puget for having assisted me with his observations on that occasion.

"Captain Vancouver had made many curious observations on the natural history of the several countries he had visited, and on the manners, customs, laws, and religion, of the various people with whom he had met, or amongst whom he had occasionally resided; but had been induced to postpone these miscellaneous matters, lest the regular diary of the voyage should be interrupted by the introduction of such desultory observations. These he had intended to present in the form of a supplementary or concluding chapter, but was prevented from so doing by the unfortunate event of his illness.

"Most of the papers which contain these interesting particulars, are too concise and too unconnected for me to attempt any arrangement of them; or to submit them to the reader without hazarding Captain Vancouver's judgment as an observer, or his reputation as a narrator, rigidly devoted to the truth. But as some of the notes, which he made upon the spot, are of too valuable a nature to be entirely lost, I shall venture to subjoin them to the history of the voyage, as nearly as possible in his own words, without attempting any such arrangement of them, as might tend to diminish their authenticity, or bring into doubt that scrupulous veracity from which Captain Vancouver never departed.

"The whole narrative of the Voyage of Discovery having been brought to its conclusion at Valparaíso, by Captain Vancouver himself, there only remains for me to add, that in preparing for the press the small remainder of his journal, comprehending the passage round Cape Horn to St. Helena, and from thence to England, I have strictly adhered to the rough documents

before me; but as no new incidents occurred in this part of the voyage, and as the insertion of log-book minutes, over a space which is now so frequently traversed, cannot either be useful or entertaining, I have endeavoured to compress this portion of the journal into as few pages as possible.

"JOHN VANCOUVER."

EXTRACTS.

METHODS OF PRESERVING THE HEALTH OF SEAMEN.

April 1791.

"ON our departure from England, I did not intend using any antiseptic provisions, until the refreshments which we might be enabled to procure at the Madeiras should be exhausted; but light baffling winds, together with the crank situation and bad sailing of the Chatham, having so retarded our progress, that, by the 21st, we were advanced no further than the latitude of 35° 7' north, longitude 14° 40' west; four krout and portable broth had, for some days, been served on board each of the vessels; the store-rooms had been cleared, cleaned, and washed with vinegar, and the ship had been smoked with gunpowder mixed with vinegar. As I had ever considered fire the most likely and efficacious means to keep up a constant circulation of fresh and pure air throughout a ship; in the fore part of every day good fires were burning between decks, and in the well. Both decks were kept clean, and as dry as possible, and notwithstanding the weather was hot, and the smoke and heat thence arising was considered as inconvenient and disagreeable, yet I was confident that a due attention to this particular, and not washing too frequently below, were indispensable precautions, and would be productive of the most salubrious and happy effects in preserving the health and lives of our people. These preventive measures becoming the standing orders of the Discovery, it will be unnecessary hereafter to repeat that they were regularly enforced, as they were observed throughout the voyage with the strictest attention. It may not, however, on this subject, be improper to remark, that if, instead of biscuit, seamen were provided with fresh soft bread, which can easily be made very good at sea, and a large proportion of whole.

wholesome water, where the nature of the services will admit of such a supply, they would add greatly to the preservation of that most valuable of all blessings, health." P. 6.

DISCOVERY OF OYSTER HARBOUR
IN GEORGE THE THIRD'S SOUND.

October 1791.

"ON Friday the 7th, a party was made for the further examination of Oyster Harbour, and by a little excursion into the country on that side to acquire some information of its natural productions, and, if possible also, of the natives. After examining the channel as we proceeded to the upper part of the harbour, our attention was directed to several large black swans in very stately attitudes swimming on the water, and, when flying, discovering the under parts of their wings and breast to be white: this is all the description we were enabled to give of them, since they were excessively shy, and we very indifferent marksmen. In the northern corner of the harbour, we landed near a rivulet navigable only for canoes and small boats. It meandered in a northern direction between the hills, which opening to the east and west, presented a spacious plain with forest trees occupying the banks of the rivulet, and the sides of the hills, even to their very summits. We proceeded about a league by the side of the rivulet, which flowed through so dead a flat, that its motion was scarcely perceptible, and continued to be brackish, although in its passage it received several other smaller streams of most excellent water. In it were an abundance of very fine fish, and on its banks were many black swans, ducks, curlews, and other wild fowl. On the sides of this stream, as well as on the shores in Oyster Harbour, were seen the remains of several fish weirs, about eight or nine inches high, evidently the sorry contrivance of the wretched inhabitants of the country: some of these were constructed with loose stones, others with sticks, and stumps of wood; but none of them were likely to be of much utility at this season, as several were placed nearly at, and others above, what now seemed the high-water mark; but we supposed at times, when the rain or other cause should extend the rivulet

beyond its present bounds, which in width did not exceed thirty yards, and in depth four or five feet, these humble contrivances might arrest some small fish. Great bodies of water evidently pass down this stream at certain seasons, as appeared by the river's course occupying from two to three hundred yards on each side of the rivulet, the soil of which was composed of sea sand and broken shells, and was destitute of any vegetable production. This space when overflowed must, from its winding course, form a most beautiful sheet of water. The weirs for the taking fish, and steps made in the bark for the purpose of ascending some of the largest trees, though both excessively rude, were undoubtedly the effects of manual labour, and, with the huts, formed the only indications of the country being inhabited, that we were able to discern. There were no paths in the woods, nor were any smokes to be seen over the extensive country we beheld, which fully satisfied us, that any further search for the natives would be fruitless; and therefore we returned by a different route to the boats. In our way we saw the remains of two similar huts. Near these was an ant's nest much of the same shape and magnitude, though finished in a very superior style and manner, and showing how very humble is the state of human existence, when unassisted by civil society, and undirected by the sciences. Having eaten our salt beef we proceeded homewards, much mortified that the many wild fowl we had seen had escaped our vigilance; but that we might not return empty-handed, we stopped at one of the oyster banks, where in about half an hour we loaded our boats, and returned on board about nine o'clock in the evening." P. 38.

ISLAND OFARO DISCOVERED.

December 1791.

"ASSISTED by a gentle S.E. gale, with fine pleasant weather, at three in the afternoon we were within about a league of the shore; yet no bottom was to be gained at the depth of 180 fathoms. Several canoes came off to the ship, and all means were used to invite them on board. They declined our entreaties, but seemed very solicitous that we should accept their invitations

visitations to land : which they signified by waving their paddles towards the coast, and by desiring us, in the language of the Great South Sea nation, to go nearer to the shore. We bore away with that intent, but soon again brought to, on observing that two or three canoes were paddling in great haste towards the ship. After some persuasion, four men in one of the canoes came near enough to receive some presents, which seemed to please them exceedingly; and though their countrymen appeared to rebuke them for their rashness, the example was shortly followed by several others. It was not, however, without showing every assurance of friendship, that any could be prevailed upon to come on board, until at length, the man who had brought about this intercourse seemed determined to establish it, by complying with our desires. On his entering the ship, he trembled and was much agitated; apprehension, astonishment, and admiration, equally appearing at the same instant; and though, on his being made welcome after the usual fashion, and presented with a small iron adz, his countenance became more serene and cheerful, yet he still appeared in a state of great anxiety. He soon communicated his reception and treatment to his surrounding countrymen; and we shortly had as many visitors as it was pleasant to entertain. They all seemed perfectly well acquainted with the uses to which they could apply iron, and how to estimate its value amongst themselves; as also the manner in which it was regarded by Europeans. They made no scruple, even with some force, to take articles of iron out of our hands; and, in lieu of them, with great courtesy and address, presented, in return, some few fish, fishing-hooks, lines, and other trifles, which they seemed to wish should be accepted as presents, and not received in exchange. Looking-glasses, beads, and other trinkets of little importance, at first attracted their attention, and were gladly accepted; but no sooner did they discover that articles made of iron were common amongst us, than they refused all other presents, and wanted to barter every other gift for iron. I could not prevail on any of them to accept a few medals.

"Their visit seemed prompted only by curiosity, as they were completely

unarmed, and brought with them neither articles of food, nor manufacture. A few spears, and a club or two, were seen in one or two of the canoes only; two or three indifferent slings for stones were also noticed; with which they parted without the least reluctance.

"We lay to until five o'clock, in the hope of obtaining the name of this island, or of any other which might exist in its neighbourhood, since these people were evidently of the Great South Sea nation; speaking, with some little difference of dialect, the same language; and resembling the Friendly islanders, more than the inhabitants of any other country. On this occasion, *Towereroo*, the Sandwich islander, was of little assistance; having been taken at an early period from home, and having been long absent, he had so much forgotten his mother tongue, as to be scarcely able to understand the language of these people better than ourselves. Two or three of them remained on board nearly an hour; but so unfixed and unsteady was their attention, which wandered from object to object, that it was impossible to gain from them any information. Their answers to almost every question were in the affirmative; and our inquiries as to the name of their island, &c. were continually interrupted by incessant invitations to go on shore. At length, I had reason to believe the name of the island was *Oparo*; and that of their chief, *Korie*. Although I could not positively determine that these names were correctly ascertained, yet as there was a probability of their being so, I distinguished the island by the name of *OPARO*, until it might be found more properly entitled to another.

"This island is situated in the latitude of $27^{\circ} 36'$; and by our lunar observations of the two preceding days reduced to its centre by the chronometer, is in longitude $215^{\circ} 58' 28''$; the mean of the variation was $5^{\circ} 40'$ eastwardly.

"Its principal character is a cluster of high craggy mountains, forming, in several places, most romantic pinnacles, with perpendicular cliffs nearly from their summits to the sea; the vacancies between the mountains would more probably be termed chasms than vallies, in which there was no great appearance of plenty, fertility, or cultivation; they were chiefly clothed with shrubs and dwarf trees. Neither

the plantain, nor other spontaneous vegetable productions common to the inhabited tropical islands, presented themselves. The tops of six of the highest hills bore the appearance of fortified places, resembling redoubts; having a sort of block-house, in the shape of an English glass-house, in the centre of each, with rows of palisadoes a considerable way down the sides of the hills, nearly at equal distances. These, overhanging, seemed intended for advanced works, and apparently capable of defending the citadel by a few against a numerous host of assailants. On all of them, we noticed people, as if on duty, constantly moving about. What we considered as block-houses, from their great similarity in appearance to that sort of building, were sufficiently large to lodge a considerable number of persons, and were the only habitations we saw. Yet from the number of canoes that in so short a time assembled around us, it is natural to conclude that the inhabitants are very frequently afloat, and to infer from this circumstance that the shores, and not those fortified hills which appeared to be in the centre of the island, would be preferred for their general residence. We saw about thirty double and single canoes, though most of them were of the double sort: the single canoes were supported by an outrigger on one side, and all built much after the fashion of the Society Islands, without having their very high sterns, though the sterns of some of these were considerably elevated; and their bows were not without some little ornament. They were very neatly constructed, though the narrowest canoes I ever saw. When it is considered that the builders of them are nearly destitute of iron, and possessed of very few implements of that valuable metal; and when the miserable tools they have generally recourse to for such operations are regarded, the mind is filled with admiration at their ingenuity, and persevering industry. The island did not appear to afford any large timber; the broadest planks of which the canoes were made, not exceeding twelve inches, confirmed us in this opinion, as they were probably cut out of the largest trees. Some of the stoutest double canoes accommodated from twenty-five to thirty men, of whom, on a moderate computation, three hun-

dred were supposed to have been seen near the ship. These were all adults, and apparently none exceeding a middle age; so that the total number of inhabitants on the island can hardly be estimated at less than fifteen hundred. In this respect it must be considered prolific, notwithstanding its uncultivated appearance. The natives, however, appeared to be exceedingly well fed, of middling stature, extremely well made; and in general, their countenances were open, cheerful, and strongly marked with indications of hospitality. They were all, to a man, very solicitous that some of us should accompany them to the shore; and those who last quitted the ship, endeavoured with all their powers of persuasion, and some efforts of compulsion, to effect their purpose. On their departure they took hold of the hand of every one near them, with a view to get him into their canoe. They all had their hair cut short; and, excepting a wreath made of a broad long-leaved green plant, worn by some about the waist, they were entirely without clothing. Although the custom of tatowing prevails so generally with all the islanders of this ocean, these people were destitute of any such marks.

“Independent of the protection their fortified retreats may afford, it did not appear that they were subject to much hostility, as scarcely any scars from wounds or other marks of violence were observed on their bodies. Their elevated fortified places (for certainly they had every appearance of being such) led some of us to conjecture, that they were frequently annoyed by troublesome neighbours from some other islands not far distant. But, as the canoes we saw were not even furnished with sails, nor had any appearance of having been ever equipped for an expedition beyond their own coast, it may reasonably be inferred, that they were not accustomed to voyages of any length. Yet, on the other hand, when the small extent of their island is taken into consideration, it is hard to reconcile that it is not the fear of foreign enemies, but the apprehension of domestic insurrection, that has induced the laborious construction of their fortified retreats; and as to the S. E. of this island there is an extensive space in the ocean hitherto but little frequented, it is not improbable

that some islands may exist there, the inhabitants of which may occasionally make unfriendly visits to the people."

Vol. i. p. 74.

(To be continued.)

LXXII. *Forster's Journey from Bengal to England.* (Continued from p. 307.)

MILITARY FORCE OF THE SICQUES.

"THEIR military force may be said to consist essentially of cavalry; for though some artillery is maintained, it is awkwardly managed, and its uses ill understood; and their infantry, held in low estimation, usually garrison the forts, and are employed in the meaner duties of the service. A Sicque horfeman is armed with a match-lock and fabre of excellent metal, and his horse is strong and well formed. In this matter I speak from personal knowledge, having in the course of my journey seen two of their parties, each of which amounted to about two hundred horfemen. They were clothed in white vests*, and their arms were preserved in good order: the accoutrements, consisting of priming horns and ammunition pouches, were chiefly covered with European scarlet cloth, and ornamented with gold lace. The predilection of the Sicques for the match-lock musquet, and the constant use they make of it, causes a difference in their manner of attack from that of any other Indian cavalry; a party, from forty to fifty, advance in a quick pace to the distance of a carbine shot from the enemy, and then, that the fire may be given with the greater certainty, the horses are drawn up, and their pieces discharged; when, speedily retiring about a hundred paces, they load and repeat the same mode of annoying the enemy. The horses have been so expertly trained to the performance of this operation, that on receiving a stroke of the hand, they stop from a full career. But it is not by this mode of combat that the Sicques have become a formidable people. Their successes and conquests have largely originated from an activity unparalleled by other Indian nations, from their endurance of excessive fa-

tigue, and a keen resentment of injuries. The personal endowments of the Sicques are derived from a temperance of diet, and a forbearance from many of those sensual pleasures which have enervated the Indian Mahometans. A body of their cavalry has been known to make marches of forty or fifty miles, and to continue the exertion for many successive days.

"The forces of this nation must be numerous, though I am not possessed of any substantial document for ascertaining the amount. A Sicque will confidently say, that his country can furnish three hundred thousand cavalry; and, to authenticate the assertion, affirms, that every person, holding even a small property, is provided with a horse, match-lock, and side-arms. But, in qualification of this account, if we admit that the Sicques, when united, can bring two hundred thousand horse into the field, their force in cavalry is greater than that of any other state in Hindostan. A passage which I extracted from a memoir†, written at Dehli in 1777, exhibits a lively picture of this people in their military capacity. — "The 'Sicques,' it represents, 'are in general strong and well made; accustomed from their infancy to the most laborious life, and hardest fare, they 'make marches, and undergo fatigues 'that really appear astonishing. In 'their excursions, they carry no tents 'or baggage, except, perhaps, a small 'tent for the principal officer: the 'rest shelter themselves under blankets, which serve them also, in the 'cold weather, to wrap themselves in, 'and which, on a march, cover their 'saddles. They have commonly two, 'some of them three horses each, of 'the middle size, strong, active, and 'mild-tempered. The provinces of 'Lahore and Moultan, noted for a 'breed of the best horses in Hindostan, afford them an ample supply; 'and indeed they take the greatest 'care to increase it by all means in 'their power. Though they make 'merry on the demise of any of their 'brethren, they mourn for the death 'of a horse; thus showing their love 'of an animal so necessary to them in 'their professional capacity. The food 'of the Sicques is of the coarsest kind,

* "A long calico gown, having a close body and sleeves, with a white skirt.

† "I believe it was written by Colonel Polier."

and such as the poorest people in Hindostan use from necessity. Bread, baked in ashes, and soaked in a mash made of different sorts of pulse, is the best dish, and such as they never indulge in but when at full leisure; otherwise, vetches and tares, hastily parched, is all they care for. They abhor smoking tobacco, for what reason I cannot discover; but intoxicate themselves freely with spirits of their own country manufacture. A cup of the last they never fail taking after a fatigue at night. Their dress is extremely scanty: a pair of long blue drawers, and a kind of checkered plaid, a part of which is fastened round the waist, and the other thrown over the shoulder, with a mean turban, form their clothing and equipage. The chiefs are distinguished by wearing some heavy gold bracelets on their wrists, and sometimes a chain of the same metal bound round their turbans, and by being mounted on better horses; otherwise, no distinction appears amongst them. The chiefs are numerous, some of whom have the command of ten or twelve thousand cavalry; but this power is confined to a small number, the inferior officers maintaining from one to two thousand, and many not more than twenty or thirty horses; a certain quota of which is furnished by the chief, the greater part being the individual property of the horsemen.

"From the spirit of independence so invariably infused amongst them, their mutual jealousy, and a rapacious roving temper, the Sicques at this day are seldom seen co-operating in national concert, but, actuated by the influence of an individual ambition, or private distrust, they pursue such plans only as coincide with these motives. An example of their forces being engaged in opposite interests, has been noticed in the case of Mhah Sing, who succoured the Rajah of Jumbo, against the Sicque party, which had invaded his country. Before the chiefs of the Mountaineers country, at the head of the Punjab, were reduced to a tributary state, severe depredations were committed on them by the Sicques, who plundered and destroyed their habitations, car-

ried off the cattle, and, if strong and well formed, the male children, who were made converts to the faith of Nanock. But since the payment of a fixed tribute has been stipulated, which does not amount to more than five per cent. on the revenue, the Mountaineers are little molested, except when the Sicques have been called in to adjust their domestic quarrels.

"The extensive and fertile territory of the Sicques, and their attachment and application, in the midst of warfare, to the occupations of agriculture, must evidently produce a large revenue. The districts dependent on Lahore in the reign of Aurungzebe, produced, according to Mr. Bernier, a revenue of two hundred and forty-six lacks and ninety-five thousand rupees*; and we are naturally led to suppose, from the industrious skill of the Sicques in the various branches of cultivation, that no great decrease of that amount can have taken place since the Punjab has fallen into their possession.

"An extensive and valuable commerce is also maintained in their country, which has been extended to distant quarters of India; particularly to the provinces of Bengal and Bahar, where many Sicque merchants of opulence at this time reside. The Omichund, who took so active, though unfortunate a share in the revolution which the English effected in Bengal, was a Sicque; as is his adopted son, who is now an inhabitant of Calcutta.—Merchants of every nation or sect, who may introduce a traffic into their territories, or are established under their government, experience a full protection, and enjoy commercial privileges in common with their own subjects. At the same time it must be noticed, that such immunities are granted only to those who remain amongst them, or import wares for the immediate supply of the Sicque markets. But the foreign traders, or even travellers, who attempt to pass through the Punjab, are often plundered, and usually ill treated. In the event of no molestation being offered to people of this description, the escape is ever spoken of with a degree of joyful surprise, and a thanksgiving is offered to

* "Two millions four hundred and sixty-nine thousand five hundred pounds sterling, at two shillings for the rupee."

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Provi.

Providence for the singular escape.— This conduct, inimical to the progress of civilization, and an impediment to the influx of wealth, proceeds from an extreme jealousy of strangers, added to a rapacity of temper, which make them averse to the encouragement of any scheme in whose success they do not immediately participate.

"The Sicques are not rigorous in their stipulations with the Mahometan proselytes, who, if they abstain from beef's flesh (which is held in equal abhorrence by the Sicques as by the Hindoos), and perform the more ostensible duties, as burning their dead, and preserving the hair of the head, an indulgent latitude is granted in all the other articles of the creed of Nanock. The Mahometans who reside in the Punjab are subject to occasional oppression, and often to the insult of the lower classes of the people; among whom it is not an uncommon practice to defile the places of worship, by throwing in the carcasses of hogs and other things held impure by the Musselman law. The Mahometans are also prohibited from announcing their stated times of prayer, which, conformably to their usage, is proclaimed in a loud tone of voice. A Sicque who in the chase shall have slain a wild hog, is frequently known to compel the first Mahometan he meets to carry to his home the body of the animal; and, on being initiated into the rites of their religion, the Sicques will sometimes require a Mahometan convert to bind on his arm the tusk of a boar, that by this act of national impurity, he may the more avowedly testify a renunciation and contempt of the tenets of his former faith. These facts will sufficiently mark the haughty and insulting demeanour which, with few deviations, forms a prominent feature in the character of the military Sicques; but we may also ascribe a certain portion of their severe and contumelious treatment of the Mahometans to a remembrance of recent injuries.

"The discordant interests which agitate the Sicque nation, and the con-

stitutional genius of the people, must incapacitate them, during the existence of these causes, from becoming a formidable offensive power; nor are they invested with that species of executive strength which is necessary to advance and establish a distant conquest. In the defence and recovery of their country, the Sicques displayed a courage of the most obstinate kind, and manifested a perseverance, under the pressure of calamities, which bear an ample testimony of native resource, when the common danger had roused them to action, and gave but one impulse to their spirit. Should any future cause call forth the combined efforts of the Sicques to maintain the existence of empire and religion, we may see some ambitious chief led on by his genius and success, and, absorbing the power of his associates, display, from the ruins of their commonwealth, the standard of monarchy.— The page of history is filled with the like effects, springing from the like causes. Under such a form of government, I have little hesitation in saying, that the Sicques would be soon advanced to the first rank amongst the native princes of Hindostan, and would become a terror to the surrounding states*." Vol. i. p. 288.

MODE OF CROSSING THE RIVER CHINNAUN.

"THIS day crossed the Chinnaun, usually denominated at this place, from the mode of crossing it, the Chickah. The manner of conveying passengers and all sorts of property over this stream is curious, and deserves explanation. The Chinnaun is about seventy or eighty yards broad, and, like the rivers of this part of India, from the declivity of the country, very rapid. On the opposite banks are fixed strong wooden posts, of about four feet in height, on the upper ends of which a stout rope is tightly extended, and is joined below to a smaller one, by hoops of twisted osiers. In the centre of the small rope, to which

* "Mhadgee Scindia, a Mahratta chief, by seizing the relics of the imperial authority and domain, has placed himself in the situation which the Sicques must have been desirous of occupying. This resolution will naturally create a national enmity, perhaps a contest, between the northern branch of the Mahratta empire and the Sicques."

only the hoops are firmly attached, hangs a vehicle of net-work, for the conveyance of merchandize and passengers, which is supported from the main rope by a wooden slider, in the form and size of a bullock's yoke, to whose ends the vehicle is fastened; and a sufficient length of both ends of the small rope permits it to be landed on either side of the river. It appears that the feat, or, as it is termed in this country, the Chickah, is, by mutual agreement, kept on the Kistewer side, during the night. In defiance of my passport, the officer at the Chinnanee, limit taxed me in an additional fee; and I was also compelled to buy my way through an inferior tribe of harpies, who infested the water-side. Anxious to arrive at the end of the stage, being both hungry and tired, I endeavoured to pacify their clamours; but other demands were yet against me: for this extraordinary race of ferrymen, having conveyed my servant and our little baggage over half of the river, kept them swinging there, and declared, that they should be detained until a second payment was made. Though this impediment materially affected me, I could not resist laughing at the awkward position of the unfortunate domestic, who bawled out to me, from his slack rope, that they were a pack of hardened rogues, and that he would rather be kept hanging all night than consent to give them a farthing more. But the necessities of my situation cooled my resentment, and obliged me to purchase his release." *Vol. i. p. 301.*

DRESS, &c. OF THE KASHMIRIANS.

"THE dress of the Kashmirians consists of a large turban, awkwardly put on; a great woollen vest with wide sleeves; and a sack, wrapped in many folds round the middle; under the vest, which may be properly called a wrapper, the higher class of people wear a pirahun or shirt, and drawers; but the lower order have no under garment, nor do they even gird up their loins. On first seeing these people in their own country, I imagined from their garb, the cast of countenance, which is long and of a grave aspect, and the form of their beards, that I had come amongst a nation of

Jews. The same idea impressed also Mr. Bernier, who, carrying it farther, has attempted, by the aid of some proofs more specious than substantial, to deduce their origin from the Jewish tribes that were carried into captivity.

"The dress of the women is no less awkward than that of the men, and is ill adapted to display the beauties they naturally possess. Their outward, and often only garment, is of cotton, and shaped like a long loose shirt. Over the hair, which falls in a single braid, they wear a close cap, usually of a woollen cloth of a crimson colour; and to the hinder part of it is attached a triangular piece of the same stuff, which, falling on the back, conceals much of the hair. Around the lower edge of the cap is rolled a small turban, fastened behind with a short knot, which seemed to me the only artificial ornament about them.—You will be pleased to notice, that I speak of the dress of the ordinary women, such only being permitted to appear in public. The women of the higher classes are never seen abroad; nor is it consistent with the usage of any Mahometan nation even to speak of the female part of a family.

"The Kashmirians are stout, well formed, and as the natives of a country lying in the thirty-fourth degree of latitude, may be termed a fair people, and their women in southern France or Spain would be called brunettes. But having been prepossessed with an opinion of their charms, I suffered a sensible disappointment; though I saw some of the female dancers most celebrated for beauty and the attractions of their profession. A coarseness of figure generally prevails among them, with broad features, and they too often have thick legs.—Though excelling in the colour of their complexion, they are evidently surpassed by the elegant form and pleasing countenance of the women of some of the western provinces of India.—

"The language of Kashmere evidently springs from the Sanscrit stock, and resembles in sound that of the Mahrattas, though with more harshness, which has probably induced the inhabitants to compose their songs in the Persian, or adopt those of the Persian poets. Yet, in despite of the unpleasant tone of their speech, there

is scarcely a person in the country, from youth to old age, who has not a taste for music.

"The Kashmirians are gay and lively people, with strong propensities to pleasure. None are more eager in their pursuit of wealth, have more inventive faculties in acquiring it, or who devise more modes of luxurious expense. When a Kashmirian, even of the lowest order, finds himself in the possession of ten shillings, he loses no time in assembling his party, and launching into the lake, solaces himself till the last farthing is spent. Nor can the despotism of an Afghan government, which loads them with a various oppression and cruelty, eradicate this strong tendency to dissipation; yet their manners, it is said, have undergone a manifest change, since the dismemberment of their country from Hindostan. Encouraged by the liberality and indulgence of the Moguls, they gave a loose to their pleasures and the bent of their genius. They appeared in gay apparel, constructed costly buildings, and were much addicted to the pleasures of the table. The interests of this province were so strongly favoured at the court, that every complaint against its governors was attentively listened to, and any attempt to molest the people restrained or punished.

"In the reign of Aurungzebe, when the revenue of the different portions of the empire exceeded that of the present day, the sum collected in Kashmir amounted to three and a half lacks of rupees; but at this time not less than twenty lacks are extracted by the Afghan governor, who, if his tribute be regularly remitted to court, is allowed to execute with impunity every act of violence. This extreme rigour has sensibly affected the deportment and manners of the Kashmirians, who shrink with dread from the Afghan oppressions, and are fearful of making any display of opulence. A Georgian merchant, who had long resided in the country, gave me the most satisfactory information of Kashmir. He said, that when he first visited the province, which was governed by a person of a moderate disposition, the people were licentious, volatile, and profuse: but, that since the administration of the late

chief, an Afghan of a fierce and rapacious temper, they had become dispirited, their way of living mean, their dress slovenly, and though of a temper proverbially loquacious, they were averse from communicating ordinary intelligence.

"During my residence in Kashmir, I often witnessed the harsh treatment which the common people received at the hands of their masters, who rarely issued an order without a blow of the side of their hatchet, a common weapon of the Afghans, and used by them in war, as a battle-axe. Though the inhabitants of this province are held under a grievous subjection, and endure evils the most mortifying to human nature, being equally oppressed and insulted, the various testimonies brought home to me of their common depravity of disposition, made me the less sensible of their distress; and in a short time so faint was the trace of it on my mind, that I even judged them worthy of their adverse fortune." *Vol. ii. p. 20.*

TYRANNY AND CRUELTY OF AZAD KHAN, THE PRESENT GOVERNOR OF KASHMIRE.

"AZAD Khan, the present governor of Kashmir, of the Afghan tribe, succeeded his father Hadji* Kareem Dad, a domestic officer of Ahmed Shah Duranny, and who was, at the death of that prince, advanced to the government of Kashmir, by Timur Shah, as a reward for quelling the rebellion of the Amir Khan, who has been already mentioned. Though the Kashmirians exclaim with bitterness at the administration of Hadji Kareem Dad, who was notorious for his wanton cruelties and insatiable avarice; often, for trivial offences, throwing the inhabitants, tied by the back in pairs, into the river, plundering their property, and forcing their women of every description; yet they say, he was a systematical tyrant, and attained his purposes, however atrocious, through a fixed medium. They hold a different language in speaking of the son, whom they denominate the Zaulim Khan, a Persian phrase, which expresses a tyrant without discernment; and if the smaller portion

* "Those who have made the pilgrimage of Mecca are termed Hadji."

of the charges against him are true, the appellation is fitly bestowed. At the age of eighteen years, he has few of the vices of youth; he is not addicted to the pleasures of the haram, nor to wine: he does not even smoke the hookah. But his acts of ferocity exceed common belief; they would seem to originate in the wildest caprice, and to display a temper rarely seen in the nature of man.

"That you may form some specific knowledge of the character of this, let me call him, infernal despot, I will mention some facts which were communicated during my residence in the province. While he was passing with his court, under one of the wooden bridges of the city, on which a crowd of people had assembled to observe the procession, he levelled his musket at an opening which he saw in the pathway, and, being an expert marksman, he shot to death an unfortunate spectator. Soon after his accession to the government, he accused his mother of infidelity to her husband, and in defiance of the glaring absurdity which appeared in the allegation, as well as the anxious entreaties of the woman who had borne him, to save her from shame, she was ignominiously driven from the palace; and about the same time, on a like frivolous pretence, he put one of his wives to death. A film on one of his eyes had baffled the attempts of many operators; and, being impatient at the want of success, he told the last surgeon who had been called in, that if the disorder was not remedied within a limited time, allowing but a few days, his belly should be cut open; the man failed in the cure, and Azad Khan verified his threat."

"In noticing the character of the governor of Kasmire, which is composed of little else than a blind destructive cruelty, you will be surprised that he is not punished or restrained by the court: but when it is considered that the approach to this remote province leads through hostile or independent territories, that Timur Shah is equally withheld from distant enterprise by the accumulated arrears and consequent weakness of his army, to which may be added the fear of domestic treason, and a native indolence of temper, a sufficient cause will be seen for his pas-

sive regard to the interior government of Kasmire." *Vol. ii. p. 26.*

(*To be continued.*)

LXXIII. *Collins's Account of the English Colony in New South Wales.*—
(Continued from p. 301.)

EXTRACTS.

RELIGION OF THE NATIVES OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

"IT has been asserted by an eminent divine*, that no country has yet been discovered where some trace of religion was not to be found. From every observation and inquiry I could make among these people, from the first to the last of my acquaintance with them, I can safely pronounce them an exception to this opinion. I am certain that they do not worship either sun, moon, or star; that, however necessary fire may be to them, it is not an object of adoration; neither have they respect for any particular beast, bird, or fish. I never could discover any object, either substantial or imaginary, that impelled them to the commission of good actions, or deterred them from the perpetration of what we deem crimes. There indeed existed among them some idea of a future state, but not connected in any wise with religion; for it had no influence whatever on their lives and actions. On their being often questioned as to what became of them after their decease, some answered, that they went either on or beyond the great water; but by far the greater number signified, that they went to the clouds. Converting with Ben-nil-long, after his return from England, where he had obtained much knowledge of our customs and manners, I wished to learn what were his ideas of the place from which his countrymen came, and led him to the subject by observing, that all the white men here came from England. I then asked him, where the black men (or Eora) came from. He hesitated—Did they come from any island? His answer was, that he knew of none: they came from the clouds (alluding perhaps to the aborigines of the country); and when they died,

* "Blair's Sermons, vol. i. Sermon 1."

they returned to the clouds (Boo-row-e). He wished to make me understand that they ascended in the shape of little children, first hovering in the tops and in the branches of trees; and mentioned something about their eating, in that state, their favourite food, little fishes.

"If this idea of the immortality of the soul should excite a smile, is it more extraordinary than the belief which obtains among some of us, that at the last day the various disjointed bones of men shall find out each its proper owner, and be reunited?—The savage here treads close upon the footsteps of the Christian.

"The natives who inhabit the harbour to the northward, called by us Port Stephens, believed that five white men who were cast away among them (as has been before shown) had formerly been their countrymen, and took one of them to the grave where, he told him, the body he at that time occupied had been interred. If this account, given us by men who may well be supposed to deal in the marvellous, can be depended upon, how much more ignorant are the natives of Port Stephens, who live only thirty leagues to the northward of us, than the natives of and about Port Jackson!

"The young people who resided in our houses were very desirous of going to church on Sundays, but knew not for what purpose we attended. I have often seen them take a book, and with much success imitate the clergyman in his manner (for better and readier mimics can no where be found), laughing, and enjoying the applause which they received.

"I remember to have seen in a newspaper, or pamphlet, an account of a native throwing himself in the way of a man who was about to shoot a crow; and the person who wrote the account drew an inference, that the bird was an object of worship: but I can with confidence affirm, that, so far from dreading to see a crow killed, they are very fond of eating it, and take the following particular method to ensnare that bird: a native will stretch himself on a rock, as if asleep, in the sun, holding a piece of fish in his open hand; the bird, be it hawk or crow, seeing the prey, and not observing any motion in the native, pounces on the fish, and, in the in-

stant of seizing it, is caught by the native, who soon throws him on the fire and makes a meal of him.

"That they have ideas of a distinction between *good* and *bad* is evident, from their having terms in their language significant of these qualities. Thus, the sting-ray was (*wee-re*) bad; it was a fish of which they never ate. The *pat-ta-go-rang*, or kangaroo, was (*bood-yer-re*) good, and they ate it whenever they were fortunate enough to kill one of these animals." *P.* 547.

STATURE AND APPEARANCE.

"WE observed but few men or women among them who could be said to be tall, and still fewer who were well made. I once saw a dwarf, a female, who, when she stood upright, measured about four feet two inches. None of her limbs were disproportioned, nor were the features of her face unpleasant: she had a child at her back, and we were told came from the south shore of Botany Bay. I thought the other natives seemed to make her an object of their merriment. In general, indeed almost universally, the limbs of these people were small; of most of them, the arms, legs, and thighs, were thin. This, no doubt, is owing to the poverty of their living, which is chiefly on fish; otherwise the fineness of the climate, co-operating with the exercise which they take, might have rendered them more muscular. Those who live on the sea-coast depend entirely on fish for their sustenance; while the few who dwell in the woods subsist on such animals as they can catch. The very great labour necessary for taking these animals, and the scantiness of the supply, keep the wood natives in as poor a condition as their brethren on the coast. It has been remarked, that the natives who have been met with in the woods had longer arms and legs than those who lived about us. This might proceed from their being compelled to climb the trees after honey and the small animals which resort to them, such as the flying squirrel and opossum, which they effect by cutting with their stone hatchets notches in the bark of the tree, of a sufficient depth and size to receive the ball of the great toe.

The

The first notch being cut, the toe is placed in it; and while the left arm embraces the tree, a second is cut at a convenient distance, to receive the other foot. By this method, they ascend very quick, always cutting with the right hand and clinging with the left, resting the whole weight of the body on the ball of either foot.

"In an excursion to the westward, with a party, we passed a tree (of the kind named by us the white gum, the bark of which is soft) that we judged to be about one hundred and thirty feet in height, and which had been notched by the natives at least eighty feet, before they attained the first branch where it was likely they could meet with any reward for so much toil.

"The features of many of these people were far from unpleasing; particularly of the women: in general; the black bushy beards of the men; and the bone or reed which they thrust through the cartilage of the nose, tended to give them a disgusting appearance; but in the women, that feminine delicacy which is to be found among white people was to be traced even upon their sable cheeks; and though entire strangers to the comforts and conveniences of clothing, yet they sought with a native modesty to conceal by attitude what the want of covering would otherwise have revealed. They have often brought to my recollection

'The bending statue which enchants the world,'

though it must be owned that the resemblance consisted solely in the position." P. 549.

COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE.

"HOW will the refined ear of gallantry be wounded at reading an account of the courtship of these people! I have said that there was a delicacy visible in the manners of the females. Is it not shocking then to think that the prelude to love in this country should be violence? yet such it is, and of the most brutal nature: these unfortunate victims of lust and cruelty (I can call them by no better name) are, I believe, always selected from the women of a tribe different

from that of the males (for they ought not to be dignified with the title of men), and with whom they are at enmity. Secrecy is necessarily observed, and the poor wretch is stolen upon in the absence of her protectors; being first stupified with blows, inflicted with clubs or wooden swords, on the head, back, and shoulders, every one of which is followed by a stream of blood, she is dragged through the woods by one arm, with a perseverance and violence that one might suppose would displace it from its socket: the lover, or, rather, the ravisher, is regardless of the stones or broken pieces of trees which may lie in his route, being anxious only to convey his prize in safety to his own party, where a scene ensues too shocking to relate. This outrage is not resisted by the relations of the female, who only retaliate by a similar outrage when they find it in their power. This is so constantly the practice among them, that even the children make it a game or exercise; and I have often, on hearing the cries of the girls with whom they were playing, run out of my house, thinking some murder was committed, but have found the whole party laughing at my mistake.

"The women thus ravished become their wives, are incorporated into the tribe to which the husband belongs, and but seldom quit him for another." P. 559.

SINGULAR CUSTOMS, CEREMONIES, &c.

(Represented in eight Plates.)

"BETWEEN the ages of eight and sixteen, the males and females undergo the operation which they term *Gnah-noong*, viz. that of having the *septum nasi* bored, to receive a bone or reed, which among them is deemed a great ornament, though I have seen many whose articulation was thereby rendered very imperfect. Between the same years also the males receive the qualifications which are given to them by losing one of the front teeth. This ceremony occurred twice during my residence in New South Wales; and in the second operation I was fortunate enough to attend them during the whole of the time, attended by a person well qualified to

make drawings of every particular circumstance that occurred. A remarkable coincidence of time was noticed as to the season in which it took place. It was first performed in the beginning of the month of February 1791; and exactly at the same period in the year 1795 the second operation occurred. As they have not any idea of numbers beyond three, and of course have no regular computation of time, this can only be ascribed to chance, particularly as the season could not have much share in their choice, February being one of the hot months.

"On the 25th of January 1795 we found that the natives were assembling in numbers, for the purpose of performing this ceremony. Several youths well known among us, never having submitted to the operation, were now to be made men. *Pe-mul-wy*, a wood native, and many strangers, came in; but the principals in the operation not being arrived from *Cam-mer-ray*, the intermediate nights were to be passed in dancing. Among them we observed one man painted white to the middle, his beard and eye-brows excepted, and altogether a frightful object. Others were distinguished by large white circles round the eyes, which rendered them as terrific as can well be imagined. It was not until the 2d of February that the party was complete. In the evening of that day the people from *Cam-mer-ray* arrived, among whom were those who were to perform the operation, all of whom appeared to have been impatiently expected by the other natives. They were painted after the manner of the country, were mostly provided with shields, and all armed with clubs, spears, and throwing sticks.—The place selected for this extraordinary exhibition was at the head of *Farm Cove*, where a space had been for some days prepared, by clearing it of grass, stumps, &c.: it was of an oval figure, the dimensions of it 27 feet by 18, and was named *Yoo-lahng*.

"When we arrived at the spot, we found the party from the north shore armed, and standing at one end of it; at the other we saw a party, consisting of the boys who were to be given up for the purpose of losing each a tooth, and their several friends who accompanied them.

"They then began the ceremony. The armed party advanced from their end of the *Yoo-lahng* with a song or rather a shout peculiar to this occasion, clattering their shields and spears, and raising a dust with their feet that nearly obscured the objects around them. On reaching the farther end of the *Yoo-lahng*, where the children were placed, one of the party stepped from the crowd, and seizing his victim returned with him to his party, who received him with a shout louder than usual, placing him in the midst, where he seemed defended by a grove of spears from any attempts that his friends might make to rescue him. In this manner the whole were taken out, to the number of fifteen; among them appeared *Ca-ru-ey*; a youth of about sixteen or seventeen years of age, and a young man, a stranger to us, of about three and twenty.

"The number being collected that were to undergo the operation, they were seated at the upper end of the *Yoo-lahng*, each holding down the head; his hands clasped, and his legs crossed under him. In this position, awkward and painful as it must have been, we understood they were to remain all night; and, in short, that, until the ceremony was concluded, they were neither to look up nor take any refreshment whatsoever.

"The *carrahdis* now began some of the mystical rites. One of them suddenly fell upon the ground, and throwing himself into a variety of attitudes, accompanied with every gesticulation that could be extorted by pain, appeared to be at length delivered of a bone, which was to be used in the ensuing ceremony. He was during this apparently painful process encircled by a crowd of natives, who danced around him, singing vociferously, while one or more beat him on the back until the bone was produced, and he was thereby freed from his pain.

"He had no sooner risen from the ground exhausted, drooping, and bathed in sweat, than another threw himself down with similar gesticulations, who went through the same ceremonies, and ended also with the production of a bone, with which he had taken care to provide himself, and to conceal it in a girdle which he wore.

"We were told, that by these mummeries (for they were in fact nothing else) the boys were assured that the ensuing

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ensuing operation would be attended with scarcely any pain, and that the more these carrahdis suffered, the less would be felt by them.

"It being now perfectly dark, we quitted the place, with an invitation to return early in the morning, and a promise of much entertainment from the ensuing ceremony. We left the boys sitting silent, and in the position before described, in which we were told they were to remain until morning.

"On repairing to the place soon after day-light, we found the natives sleeping in small detached parties; and it was not until the sun had shown himself that any of them began to stir. We observed that the people from the north shore slept by themselves, and the boys, though we heard they were not to be moved, were lying also by themselves at some little distance from the Yoo-lahng. Towards this, soon after sun-rise, the carrahdis and their party advanced in quick movement, one after the other, shouting as they entered, and running twice or thrice round it. The boys were then brought to the Yoo-lahng, hanging their heads and clasping their hands. On their being seated in this manner, the ceremonies began, the principal performers in which appeared to be about twenty in number, and all of the tribe of Cammer-ray.

"The exhibitions now performed were numerous and various; but all of them in their tendency pointed toward the boys, and had some allusion to the principal act of the day, which was to be the concluding scene of it.

"No. 1.—Represents the young men, fifteen in number, seated at the head of the Yoo-lahng, while those who were to be the operators paraded several times round it, running upon their hands and feet, and imitating the dogs of the country. Their dress was adapted to this purpose; the wooden sword, stuck in the hinder part of the girdle which they wore round the waist, did not, when they were crawling on all-fours, look much unlike the tail of a dog curled over his back. Every time they passed the place where the boys were seated, they threw up the sand and dust on them with their hands and their feet. During this ceremony the boys sat perfectly still and silent, never once moving themselves from the position in which they were placed, nor seeming in the least to notice the ridi-

culous appearance of the carrahdis and their associates.

"We understood that by this ceremony power over the dog was given to them, and that it endowed them with whatever good or beneficial qualities that animal might possess.

"The dogs of this country are of the jackal species; they never bark; are of two colours, the one red with some white about it; the other quite black. They have an invincible predilection for poultry, which the severest bearings could never repress. Some of them are very handsome.

"No. 2.—Represents the young men seated as before. The first figure in the plate is a stout robust native, carrying on his shoulders a pat-ta-go-rang or kangaroo made of grass; the second is carrying a load of brush-wood. The other figures, seated about, are singing, and beating time to the steps of the two loaded men, who appeared as if they were almost unable to move under the weight of the burden which they carried on their shoulders. Halting every now and then, and limping, they at last deposited their load at the feet of the young men, and retired from the Yoo-lahng as if they were excessively fatigued by what they had done. It must be noticed, that the man who carried the brush-wood had thrust one or two flowering shrubs through the *septum nasi*. He exhibited an extraordinary appearance in this scene.

"By this offering of the dead kangaroo was meant the power that was now given them of killing that animal; the brush-wood might represent its haunt.

"No. 3.—The boys were left seated at the Yoo-lahng for about half an hour; during which the actors went down into a valley near the place, where they fitted themselves with long tails made of grass, which they fastened to the hinder part of their girdles, instead of the sword, which was laid aside during the scene. Being equipped, they put themselves in motion as a herd of kangaroos, now jumping along, then lying down and scratching themselves, as those animals do when basking in the sun. One man beat time to them with a club on a shield, while two others armed, attended them all the way, pretending to steal upon them unobserved and spear them.

"This was emblematical of one of their

their future exercises, the hunting of the kangaroo.

"The scene was altogether whimsical and curious; the valley where they equipped themselves was very romantic, and the occasion extraordinary and perfectly novel.

"No. 4.—On the arrival of this curious party at the Yoo-lahng, it passed by the boys as the herd of kangaroo, and then quickly divesting themselves of their artificial tails, each man caught up a boy, and, placing him on his shoulders, carried him off in triumph toward the last scene of this extraordinary exhibition.

"It must be remarked, that the friends and relations of the young people by no means interferred, nor attempted to molest these north shore natives in the execution of their business." P. 567.

(To be concluded in our next.)

LXXIV. *The Works of Horatio Walpole, Earl of Orford.* (Continued from p. 296.)

EXTRACTS.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Hon. Horace Walpole to the Hon. Henry Seymour Conway.

LETTER CV.

" Strawberry-hill, June 30, 1776.

"I WAS very glad to receive your letter, not only because always most glad to hear of you, but because I wished to write to you, and had absolutely nothing to say till I had something to answer. I have lain but two nights in town since I saw you, have been else constantly here, very much employed, though doing, hearing, knowing exactly nothing. I have had a Gothic architect from Cambridge to design me a gallery, which will end in a mouse, that is, in an hexagon closet of seven feet diameter. I have been making a beauty-room, which was effected by buying two dozen of small copies of Sir Peter Lely, and hanging them up; and I have been making hay, which is not made, because I put it off for three days, as I chose it should adorn the landscape when I was to have company; and so the rain is come, and has drowned it.—However, as I can even turn calculator when it is to comfort me for not minding my in-

terest, I have discovered that it is five to one better for me that my hay should be spoiled than not; for, as the cows will eat it if it is damaged, which horses will not, and as I have five cows and but one horse, is not it plain that the worse my hay is, the better? Do not you with your refining head go, and, out of excessive friendship, find out something to destroy my system. I had rather be a philosopher than a rich man; and yet have so little philosophy, that I had much rather be content than be in the right.

"Mr. — and Lady — have been here four or five days—so I had both content and exercise for my philosophy. I wish Lady — was as fortunate! The Pembrokes, Churchills, Le Texier, as you will have heard, and the Garricks, have been with us. Perhaps, if alone, I might have come to you—but you are all too healthy and harmonious. I can neither walk nor sing—nor, indeed, am fit for any thing but to amuse myself in a sedentary trifling way. What I have most certainly not been doing, is writing any thing: a truth I say to you, but do not desire you to repeat. I deign to satisfy scarce any body else. Whoever reported that I was writing any thing, must have been so totally unfounded, that they either blundered by guessing without reason, or knew they lied—and that could not be with any kind intention; though saying I am going to do what I am not going to do, is wretched enough. Whatever is said of me without truth, any body is welcome to believe that pleases. In fact, though I have scarce a settled purpose about any thing, I think I shall never write any more. I have written a great deal too much, unless I had written better, and I know I should now only write still worse. One's talent, whatever it is, does not improve at near sixty—yet, if I liked it, I dare to say a good reason would not stop my inclination:—but I am grown most indolent in that respect, and most absolutely indifferent to every purpose of vanity. Yet without vanity I am become still prouder and more contemptuous. I have a contempt for my countrymen that makes me despise their approbation. The applause of slaves and the foolish mad is below ambition. Mine is the haughtiness of an ancient Briton, that cannot write what would please this age, and would not if he could. Whatever happens

in America, this country is undone. I desire to be reckoned of the last age, and to be thought to have lived to be superannuated, preserving my senses only for myself and for the few I value. I cannot aspire to be traduced like Algernon Sydney, and content myself with sacrificing to him amongst my lares. Unalterable in my principles, careless about most things below essentials, indulging myself in trifles by system, annihilating myself by choice, but dreading folly at an unseemly age, I contrive to pass my time agreeably enough, yet see its termination approach without anxiety. This is a true picture of my mind; and it must be true, because drawn for you, whom I would not deceive, and could not if I would. Your question on my being writing drew it forth, though with more seriousness than the report deserved—yet talking to one's dearest friend is neither wrong nor out of season. Nay, you are my best apology. I have always contented myself with your being perfect, or, if your modesty demands a mitigated term, I will say unexceptionable. It is comical, to be sure, to have always been more solicitous about the virtue of one's friend than about one's own—yet I repeat it, you are my apology—though I never was so unreasonable as to make you answerable for my faults in return: I take them wholly to myself—But enough of this. When I know my own mind, for hitherto I have settled no plan for my summer, I will come to you. Adieu." *Vol. v. p. 191.*

LETTER CIX.

"*October 5, 1777.*

"MY difficulties about removing from home arise from the consciousness of my own weakness. I make it a rule, as much as I can, to conform wherever I go. Though I am threescore to-day, I should not think that an age for giving every thing up; but it is for whatever one has not strength to perform. You, though not a vast deal younger, are as healthy and strong, thank God, as ever you was: and you cannot have ideas of the mortification of being stared at by strangers and servants, when one hobbles, or cannot do as others do. I delight in being with you, and the Richmonds, and those I love and know; but the crowds of young people, and Chichester folks,

and officers, and strange servants, make me afraid of Goodwood, I own. My spirits are never low, but they will seldom last out the whole day; and though I dare to say I appear to many capricious, and different from the rest of the world, there is more reason in my behaviour than there seems. You know in London I seldom stir out in a morning, and always late; and it is because I want a great deal of rest. Exercise never did agree with me: and it is hard if I do not know myself by this time; and what has done so well with me will probably suit me best for the rest of my life. It would be ridiculous to talk so much of myself, and to enter into such trifling details, but *you* are the person in the world that I wish to convince that I do not act merely from humour or ill-humour; though I confess at the same time that I want your bonhomie, and have a disposition not to care at all for people that I do not absolutely like. I could say a great deal more on this head, but it is not proper; though, when one has pretty much done with the world, I think with Lady Blandford that one may indulge one's self in one's own whims and partialities in one's own house. I do not mean, still less to profess, retirement, because it is less ridiculous to go on with the world to the last, than to return to it: but in a quiet way it has long been my purpose to drop a great deal of it. Of all things I am farthest from not intending to come often to Park-place, whenever you have little company; and I had rather be with you in November than in July, because I am so totally unable to walk farther than a snail. I will never say any more on these subjects, because there may be as much affectation in being over-old, as folly in being over-young. My idea of age is, that one has nothing really to do but what one ought, and what is reasonable. All affectations are pretensions; and pretending to be any thing one is not, cannot deceive when one is known, as every body must be that has lived long. I do not mean that old folks may not have pleasures, if they can; but then I think those pleasures are confined to being comfortable, and to enjoying the few friends one has not outlived. I am so fair as to own, that one's duties are not pleasures. I have given up a great deal of my time to nephews and

nieces,

nieces, even to some I can have little affection for. I do love my nieces, may like them; but people above forty years younger are certainly not the society I should seek. They can only think and talk of what is, or is to come; I certainly am more disposed to think and talk of what is past: and the obligation of passing the end of a long life in sets of totally new company is more irksome to me than passing a great deal of my time, as I do, quite alone. Family love and pride make me interest myself about the young people of my own family—for the whole rest of the young world, they are as indifferent to me as puppets or black children. This is my creed, and a key to my whole conduct, and the more likely to remain my creed, as I think it is *raisonné*. If I could paint my opinions instead of writing them, and I don't know whether it would not make a new sort of alphabet, I should use different colours for different affections at different ages*. When I speak of love, affection, friendship, taste, liking, I should draw them rose colour, carmine, blue, green, yellow, for my cotemporaries: for new comers, the first would be of no colour; the others, purple, brown, crimson, and changeable. Remember, one tells one's creed only to one's confessor, that is *sub sigillo*. I write to you as I think; to others as I must. Adieu!" Vol. v. p. 197.

LETTER II.

To Richard Bentley, Esq.

"Wentworth-castle, August 1752.

"I ALWAYS dedicate my travels to you. My present expedition has been very amusing: fights are thick fown in the counties of York and Nottingham: the former is more historic, and the great lords live at a prouder distance; in Nottinghamshire there is a very heptarchy of little kingdoms elbowing one another, and the barons of them want nothing but small armies to make inroads into one another's parks, murder deer, and massacre park-keepers.—But to come to particulars: the great road as far as Stamford is superb: in any other country

it would furnish medals, and immortalize any drowly monarch in whose reign it was executed. It is continued much farther, but is more rumbling. I did not stop at Hatfield and Burleigh to see the palaces of my great-uncle-ministers, having seen them before. Bugden-palace surprises one prettily in a little village; and the remains of Newark-castle, seated pleasantly, began to open a vein of historic memory. I had only transient and distant views of Lord Tyrconnel's at Belton, and of Belvoir. The borders of Huntingdonshire have churches instead of mile-stones—but the richness and extent of Yorkshire quite charmed me.—O! what quarries for working in Gothic! This place is one of the very few that I really like: the situation, woods, views, and the improvements are perfect in their kinds: nobody has a truer taste than Lord Strafford. The house is a pompous front screening an old house: it was built by the last lord on a design of the Prussian architect Bort, who is mentioned in the King's Mémoires de Brandenbourg, and is not ugly: the one pair of stairs is entirely engrossed by a gallery of 180 feet, on the plan of that in the Colonna-palace at Rome: it has nothing but four modern statues, and some bad portraits; but, on my proposal, is going to have books at each end. The hall is pretty, but low; the drawing-room handsome: there wants a good eating-room, and staircase; but I have formed a design for both, and I believe they will be executed.—That my plans should be obeyed when yours are not! I shall bring you a ground plot for a Gothic building, which I have proposed that you should draw for a little wood, but in the manner of an ancient market-cross. Without doors all is pleasing: there is a beautiful (artificial) river with a fine semicircular wood overlooking it, and the temple of Tivoli placed happily on a rising towards the end. There are obelisks, columns, and other buildings, and above all, a handsome castle, in the true style, on a rude mountain, with a court and towers: in the castle-yard, a statue of the late lord who built it. Without the park is a lake on each side, buried in noble woods.—Now contrast

* "This whimsical appropriation of colours to affections of the mind, can appear apposite only to those acquainted with Mr. Walpole's particular opinion of particular colours. E."

all this, and you may have some idea of Lord Rockingham's. Imagine a most extensive and most beautiful modern front erected before the great Lord Strafford's old house, and this front almost blocked up with hills, and every thing unfinished round it, nay within it. The great apartment, which is magnificent, is untouched: the chimney-pieces lie in boxes unopened. The park is traversed by a common road between two high hedges—not from necessity—Oh! no; this lord loves nothing but horses, and the enclosures for them take place of every thing. The bowling-green behind the house contains no less than four obelisks, and looks like a Brobdignag nine-pin-alley: on a hill near, you would think you saw the York-buildings water-works invited into the country. There are temples in corn-fields; and in the little wood, a window-frame mounted on a bunch of laurel, and intended for an hermitage. In the inhabited part of the house, the chimney-pieces are like tombs; and on that in the library is the figure of this lord's grandfather in a night-gown of plaster and gold. Amidst all this litter and bad taste, I adored the fine Vandeyck of Lord Strafford and his secretary, and could not help reverencing his bed-chamber. With all his faults and arbitrary behaviour one must worship his spirit and eloquence: where one esteems but a single royalist, one need not fear being too partial. When I visited his tomb in the church (which is remarkably neat and pretty, and enriched with monuments) I was provoked to find a little mural cabinet, with his figure three feet high kneeling. Instead of a stern bust (and his head would furnish a nobler than Bernini's Brutus) one is peevish to see a plaything that might have been bought at Chenevix's. There is a tender inscription to the second Lord Strafford's wife, written by himself—but his genius was fitter to coo over his wife's memory, than to sacrifice to his father's.

"Well! you have had enough of magnificence; you shall repose in a desert.—Old Wortley Montague lives on the very spot where the dragon of Wantley did—only I believe the latter was much better lodged.—You never saw such a wretched hovel, lean, unpainted, and half its nakedness barely shaded with harateen stretched till it cracks.—Here the miser hoards health

and money, his only two objects: he has chronicles in behalf of the air; and battens on Tokay, his single indulgence, as he has heard it is particularly salutary. But the savageness of the scene would charm your Alpine taste: it is tumbled with fragments of mountains, that look ready laid for building the world. One scrambles over a huge terrass, on which mountain ashes and various trees spring out of the very rocks; and at the brow is the den, but not spacious enough for such an inmate. However, I am persuaded it furnished Pope with this line, so exactly it answers to the picture:

On rifted rocks, the dragon's late abodes.

I wanted to ask if Pope had not visited Lady Mary Wortley here during their intimacy—but could one put that question to *Avidien* himself? There remains an ancient odd inscription here, which has such a whimsical mixture of devotion and romanticness that I must transcribe it:

"Preye for the soul of Sir Thomas Wortley, knight of the body to the kings Edward IV. Richard III. Henry VII. Henry VIII. whose faults God pardon. He caused a lodge to be built on this crag, in the midst of Wharnclyff (the old orthography), to hear the harts bell, in the year of our Lord 1510.—It was a chafe, and what he meant to hear was the noise of the stags.

"During my residence here I have made two little excursions; and I assure you it requires resolution: the roads are insufferable; they mend them—I should call it spoil them—with large pieces of stone. At Pomfret I saw the remains of that memorable castle 'where Rivers, Vaughan, and Grey lay shorter by the head;' and on which Gray says—

And thou, proud boy, from Pomfret's walls shalt send
A groan, and envy oft thy happy grand-
fire's end!

The ruins are vanishing, but well situated; there is a large demolished church, and a pretty market-house.—We crossed a Gothic bridge of eight arches at Ferrybridge, where there is a pretty view, and went to a large old house of Lord Huntingdon's, at Ledstone,

stone, which has nothing remarkable but a lofty terrace, a whole-length portrait of his grandfather in tapestry, and the having belonged to the great Lord Strafford. We saw that monument of part of poor Sir John —'s extravagance, his house, and garden, which he left orders to make without once looking at either plan. The house is a bastard Gothic, but of not near the extent I had heard. We lay at Leeds, a dingy large town; and through very bad black roads, for the whole country is a colliery, or a quarry, we went to Kirkstall Abbey, where are vast Saxon ruins, in a most picturesque situation, on the banks of a river that falls in a cascade among rich meadows, hills, and woods: it belongs to Lord Cardigan; his father pulled down a large house here, lest it should interfere with the family seat, Deane. We returned through Wakefield, where is a pretty Gothic chapel on a bridge, erected by Edward IV. in memory of his father, who lived at Sandal Castle, just by, and perished in the battle here. There is scarce any thing of the castle extant, but it commanded a rich prospect.

"By permission from their graces of Norfolk, who are at Tunbridge, Lord Strafford carried us to Work-fop, where we passed two days. The house is huge, and one of the magnificent works of old Befs of Hardwicke, who guarded the Queen of Scots here for some time in a wretched little bedchamber within her own lofty one: there is a tolerable little picture of Mary's needle-work. The great apartment is vast and trist, the whole leanly furnished: the great gallery, of above two hundred feet, at the top of the house, is divided into a library, and into nothing. The chapel is decent. There is no prospect, and the barren face of the country is richly furred with ever-green plantations, under the direction of the late Lord Petre.

"On our way we saw Kiveton, an ugly neglected seat of the Duke of Leeds, with noble apartments and several good portraits—Oh! portraits!—I went to Welbeck—It is impossible

to describe the bales of Cavendishes, Harleys, Hollifes, Veres, and Ogles: every chamber is tapestried with them; nay, and with ten thousand other fat morsels; all their histories inscribed; all their arms, crests, devices, sculptured on chimnies of various English marbles in ancient forms (and, to say truth, most of them ugly). Then such a Gothic hall, with pendent fret-work, in imitation of the old, and with a chimney-piece extremely like mine in the library! such water-colour pictures! such historic 'fragments! In short, such and so much of every thing I like, that my party thought they should never get me away again. There is Prior's portrait, and the column and Varelst's flower on which he wrote; and the authoress Duchess of Newcastle in a theatric habit, which she generally wore, and, consequently, looking as mad as the present duchess; and dukes of the same name, looking as foolish as the present duke; and Lady Mary Wortley, drawn as an authoress, with rather better pretensions; and cabinets and glasses wainfoted with the Greendale oak, which was so large, that an old steward wisely cut a way through it to make a triumphal passage for his lord and lady on their wedding, and only killed it!—But it is impossible to tell you half what there is. The poor woman who is just dead*, passed her whole widowhood, except in doing ten thousand right and just things, in collecting and monumenting the portraits and reliques of all the great families from which she descended, and which centred in her. The Duke and Duchess of Portland are expected there to-morrow; and we saw dozens of cabinets and coffers with the seals not yet taken off. What treasures to revel over! The horseman duke's manege is converted into a lofty stable, and there is still a grove or two of magnificent oaks that have escaped all these great families, though the last Lord Oxford cut down above an hundred thousand pounds worth. The place has little pretty, distinct from all these reverend circumstances." *Vol. V. p. 270.*

(To be continued.)

* "Lady Oxford, widow of the second Earl of Oxford, and mother to the Duchess of Portland."

LXXXV. *M. De la Pérouse's Voyage round the World.* (Continued from p. 291.)

EXTRACTS.

MANNERS OF THE ISLANDERS OF MAOUNA.

(December 1787.)

"THE next morning, as the rising of the sun announced a fair day, I resolved to avail myself of it, in order to reconnoitre the country, observe the inhabitants at their own homes, fill water, and then get under way, prudence forbidding me to pass a second night at that anchorage, which M. de Langle had also found too dangerous for a longer stay. It was therefore agreed upon, that we should sail in the afternoon, and that the morning, which was very fine, should be in part employed in trading for hogs and fruit. As early as the dawn of day, the islanders had surrounded the two frigates with two hundred canoes full of different kinds of provision, which they would only exchange for beads—in their estimation diamonds of the first water. Our axes, our cloth, and all our other articles of commerce, they disdained. While a part of the crew was occupied in keeping them in order, and in trading with them, the rest filled the boats with empty casks, in order to go ashore to water. Our two boats, armed, and commanded by Messrs. De Clonard and Colinet, and those of the *Astrolabe* commanded by Messrs. De Monti and Bellegarde, set off, with that intention, at five o'clock in the morning, for a bay about a league distant, and a little way to windward; a convenient situation, as it enabled them, when loaded with water, to come back with the wind large. I followed close after Messrs. Clonard and Monti in my pinnace (*biscayenne*), and landed at the same time as they did. Unfortunately M. De Langle resolved to make an excursion in his jolly-boat to another creek, about a league distant from our watering-place. This excursion, whence he returned delighted with the beauty of the village he had visited, was, as will be seen hereafter, the cause of our misfortune. The creek, towards

which the long-boats steered, was large and commodious; both they and the other boats remained afloat at low water, within half a pistol shot of the beach; and the water was both fine and easily procured. Messrs. De Clonard and De Monti preferred the best order possible. A line of soldiers was posted between the beach and the Indians, who amounted to about two hundred, including a great many women and children. We prevailed upon them all to sit down under cocoa-trees, that were not more than eight toises distant from our boats. Each of them had by him fowls, hogs, parrots, pigeons, or fruit, and all wished to sell them at once, which occasioned some confusion.

"The women, some of whom were very pretty, offered their favours, as well as their fowls and fruit, to all those who had beads to give them; and soon tried to pass through the line of soldiers, who opposed but a feeble resistance to their attempts. Europeans who have made a voyage round the world, especially Frenchmen, have no arms to ward off similar attacks: accordingly, the fair savages found little difficulty in breaking the ranks; the men then approached, and the confusion was growing general, when Indians, whom we took for chiefs, made their appearance, with sticks in their hands, and restored order, every one returning to his post, and our traffick beginning anew, to the great satisfaction of both buyers and sellers. In the mean time, a scene had passed in our long-boat, which was a real act of hostility, and which I was desirous of repressing without effusion of blood. An Indian had gotten upon the stern of the boat, had laid hold of a mallet, and had aimed several blows at the arms and back of one of our sailors. I ordered four of the strongest seamen to lay hold of him, and to throw him into the sea, which was immediately done. The other islanders appearing to disapprove of the conduct of their countryman, this squabble was attended with no bad consequences. Perhaps an example of severity would have been necessary to awe these people still more, by letting them know how much the force of our fire-arms was beyond their individual strength; for their height of about five feet ten inches, and their muscular limbs of colossal proportions,

gave them an idea of their own superiority, which rendered us by no means formidable in their eyes; but having very little time to remain among them, I thought it right not to inflict a severer penalty upon him who had offended us; and, by way of giving them some idea of our power, contented myself with buying three pigeons, which were thrown up into the air, and shot in the presence of the whole assembly.

"While all this was passing with the greatest tranquillity, and our casks were filling with water, I thought I might venture to the distance of two hundred yards, to visit a charming village, situated in the midst of a wood, or rather of an orchard, all the trees of which were loaded with fruit. The houses were placed upon the circumference of a circle, of about a hundred and fifty toises in diameter, the interior forming a vast open space, covered with the most beautiful verdure, and shaded by trees, which kept the air delightfully cool. Women, children, and old men, accompanied me, and invited me into their houses: they spread the finest and freshest mats upon a floor formed of little chosen pebbles, and raised about two feet above the ground, in order to guard against the humidity. I went into the handsomest of these huts, which probably belonged to a chief; and great was my surprise, to see a large cabinet of lattice-work, as well executed as any of those in the environs of Paris. The best architect could not have given a more elegant curve to the extremities of the ellipsis that terminated the building; while a row of pillars, at five feet distance from each other, formed a complete colonnade round the whole. The pillars were made of trunks of trees, very neatly wrought, and between them were fine mats laid over one another with great art, like the scales of a fish, and drawing up and down with cords, like our Venetian blinds. The rest of the house was covered with leaves of the cocoa palm." *Vol. iii. p. 68.*

CONTRAST OF THE BEAUTIFUL AND FERTILE COUNTRY WITH THE FEROCITY OF ITS INHABITANTS.

"THIS charming country combines the advantages of a soil fruitful with-

out culture, and of a climate which renders clothing unnecessary. The trees that produce the bread-fruit, the cocoa-nut, the banana, the guava, and the orange, hold out to these fortunate people an abundance of wholesome food; while the fowls, hogs, and dogs, which live upon the surplus of these fruits, afford them an agreeable variety of viands. They were so rich, and had so few wants, that they disdained our instruments of iron and our cloth, and asked only for beads. Abounding in real blessings, they were desirous of obtaining superfluities alone.

"They had sold at our market more than two hundred wood-pigeons, which would only eat out of the hand; and a number of the most beautiful turtle-doves and perroquets, equally tame.—What cold imagination could separate the idea of happiness from so enchanting a place? 'These islanders,' said we, a hundred times over, 'are, without doubt, the happiest beings on earth. Surrounded by their wives and children, they pass their peaceful days in innocence and repose: no care disturbs them but that of bringing up their birds, and, like the first man, of gathering, without labour, the fruit that grows over their heads.'—We were deceived. This delightful country was not the abode of innocence. We perceived, indeed, no arms; but the bodies of the Indians, covered over with scars, proved that they were often at war, or else quarrelling among themselves; while their features announced a ferocity that was not perceptible in the countenances of the women. Nature had, no doubt, stamped this character on their faces, by way of showing, that the half-savage, living in a state of anarchy, is a more mischievous being than the most ferocious of the brute creation.

"This first visit passed without any dispute capable of leading to disagreeable consequences. I learned, however, that there had been quarrels between individuals, but that they had been very prudently appeased. Stones had been thrown at M. Rollin, our surgeon-major; and an Indian, while pretending to admire M. De Moneron's sabre, had attempted to snatch it from him; but finding the scabbard alone left in his hand, he had run off in a great fright at the sight of the naked weapon. I perceived

ceived that in general these islanders were very turbulent, and in bad subjection to their chiefs; but as I intended to leave them in the afternoon, I congratulated myself on not having attached any importance to the little instances of molestation we had met with. Towards noon I returned to the ship in my barge, and was very closely followed by the long-boats. I found it difficult to get along-side, both frigates being surrounded by canoes, and our market being as much crowded as ever. When I went ashore, I had given the command of the *Bouffole* to M. Boutin, and had left him at liberty to establish such police as he might think proper, either by permitting a few of the islanders to come on board, or by positively opposing their entry, according to the turn circumstances might take. Upon the quarter-deck I found seven or eight Indians, the oldest of whom was presented to me as a chief. M. Boutin told me, that he could not have prevented their coming on board unless by firing upon them; that when they compared their bodily strength to ours, they laughed at our threats, and made a jest of our sentinels; and that my well-known principles of moderation had made him unwilling to recur to violent measures, which, however, were the only ones capable of keeping them in awe. He added, that, since the chief was present, those who had come on board before were grown more quiet and less insolent.

"I made the chief a number of presents, and showed him every mark of kindness; but wishing at the same time to inspire him with a high opinion of our power, I ordered several experiments on the use of our weapons to be made in his presence. But their effect impressed him so little, that he seemed to think them only fit for the destruction of birds.

"Our boats now arrived loaded with water, and I made every preparation to get under way, and profit by a light land breeze, which gave us hopes of having time to make a little offing. M. De Langle returned at the same moment from his excursion, and related, that he had landed in a noble harbour for boats, situated at the foot of a delightful village, and near a cascade of the most pellucid water. On going on board his own

ship, he had given orders to get under way, of which he felt the necessity as well as myself; but he insisted, in the most urgent manner, upon our remaining, standing off and on, at a league from the coast; and upon our getting on board a few long-boat loads of water, before we should entirely abandon the island. In vain did I represent to him that we were not in the smallest want of it.—He had adopted Captain Cook's system, and thought water recently shipped a thousand times preferable to that which we had in the hold; and as a few individuals of his crew had slight symptoms of scurvy, he thought, with reason, that we owed them every relief in our power. Besides, no island could be compared with this for abundance of provision: the two frigates had already taken on board more than five hundred hogs, a great number of fowls and pigeons, and a great quantity of fruit; and yet all these valuable acquisitions had only cost us a few glass beads.

"I felt the truth of these reflections; but a secret presentiment prevented my immediate acquiescence.—I told him, that I thought the islanders too turbulent for us to trust our boats on shore, when they could not be supported by the fire of the ships; and observed to him, that our moderation had only served to embolden men, who calculated upon nothing but our personal strength, which was certainly very much inferior to theirs. Nothing, however, could shake M. De Langle's resolution. He told me, that my resistance would make me responsible for the progress of the scurvy, which already began to show itself in an alarming manner, and that, besides, the harbour he was speaking of was infinitely more commodious than that of our watering-place. Finally, he begged me to permit him to put himself at the head of the first party, assuring me, that in three hours he would return on board, with all the boats full of water. M. De Langle was a man of so sound a judgment, and so much capacity, that these considerations, more than any other motive, determined me to give my consent, or rather made my will give way to his. I promised him then, that we would stand off and on all night, and that in the morning we would dispatch our two long-boats,

and two barges, armed in any way he should think proper, and that the whole should be under his command. The event fully justified our opinion, that it was time to get under way. On heaving up the anchor, we found one strand of the cable cut by the coral; and in two hours more the whole cable would have been cut through. As we were not under sail till four in the afternoon, which was too late an hour to think of sending our boats on shore, we postponed their departure till next day. The night was stormy, and the wind, which shifted every moment, made me come to a resolution of standing off about three leagues from the coast. At break of day a flat calm did not permit me to approach it; and it was not till nine o'clock, that a small breeze sprang up from the north-west, and enabled me to near the island, from which at eleven o'clock we were scarcely a league distant. I then dispatched my long-boat and barge, commanded by Messieurs Boutin and Mouton, on board the *Astrolabe*, to take M. De Langle's orders. All those who had any slight symptoms of the scurvy were put into them, as well as six soldiers armed, with the master at arms at their head. The two boats contained in all twenty-eight men, and carried twenty empty casks, which were meant to be filled at the watering-place. Messieurs De Lamanon and Colinet, though sick, were of the number of those that set off from the *Bouffole*. M. De Langle, on the other hand, set off in his barge, accompanied by M. Vaujuas, a convalescent. M. Le Gobien, a midshipman, commanded the long-boat, and Messieurs De la Martinière, Lavaux, and father Receveur, made part of the thirty-three persons sent by the *Astrolabe*. Among the sixty-one individuals, of which the whole party consisted, were the choicest men of both crews. M. De Langle armed all his people with muskets and cutlasses, and ordered six swivels to be mounted upon the long-boats. I had left him perfectly at liberty to provide every thing he might think conducive to his safety. The certitude we were in of having had no dispute with the natives, of which they could retain any resentment; the immense number of canoes that

crowded round us in the offing; the air of gaiety and confidence that prevailed in our markets; every thing, in short, tended to increase his security; and I confess that mine could not well be greater than it was. But it was contrary to my principles to send boats on shore, without the greatest necessity, especially in the midst of an immense number of people, when they could not be supported or even perceived by the ships." *Vol. iii. p. 72.*

M. DE LANGLE GOES ON SHORE,
AND, WITH ELEVEN PERSONS OF
THE TWO CREWS, IS MUR-
DERED.

"THE boats put off from the *Astrolabe* at half past twelve, and in three quarters of an hour arrived at the watering-place. What was the surprise of all the officers, and of M. De Langle himself, to find, instead of a vast and commodious bay, a creek full of coral, through which there was no passage but a winding channel, less than twenty-five feet wide, and on which the swell broke as upon a bar! When within, they had only three feet water: the long-boats grounded, and the barges only continued afloat, because they were hauled to the entrance of the channel at a considerable distance from the beach. Unfortunately, M. De Langle had examined the bay at high water only, never imagining that the tide at these islands rose five or six feet. He could not believe his eyes. The first movement of his mind was to quit the creek, and repair to that where we had already filled water, which combined every advantage. But the air of tranquillity and good humour of the crowds waiting for him upon the beach with an immense quantity of fruit and hogs; and the women and children he saw among the Indians, who take care to send them out of the way when they have hostile intentions; all these circumstances concurred to banish his first prudent idea, which an inconceivable fatality forbade him to pursue. He put the casks on shore from the four boats with the greatest tranquillity; while his soldiers preserved the best order possible upon the beach, being drawn up in two lines with a space left open for the working party. But this calm

was

was not of long duration. Several of the canoes, which had parted with their provision to the ships, had returned to the island, and had all landed in the bay of the watering-place, so that in a short time it was entirely full. Instead of two hundred natives, including women and children, whom M. De Langle had found there on his arrival at half past one, there were at three o'clock from a thousand to twelve hundred. The number of canoes, which had traded with us in the morning, was so considerable, that we scarcely perceived its diminution in the afternoon; and I gave myself credit for keeping them employed on board, in hopes that our boats would be so much the quieter on shore.—Great was my mistake! M. De Langle's situation became every moment more and more embarrassing. He found means, however, with the assistance of Messieurs De Vaujuas, Boutin, Colinet, and Gobien, to ship his water; but the bay was almost dry, and he could not hope to get the long-boats off before four in the afternoon. He stepped into them, however, as well as his detachment, and took post in the bow with his musket and musketeers, forbidding any one to fire before he should give the word. He began, however, to be sensible that he should soon be forced to do so. Already the stones began to fly, and the Indians, who were only up to their knees in water, surrounded the long-boats at less than six feet distance, the soldiers, who were embarked, making vain efforts to keep them off. If the fear of commencing hostilities, and of being accused of barbarity, had not withheld M. De Langle, he would doubtless have given orders to fire a volley of musketry and swivels, which would not have failed to put the multitude to flight; but he flattered himself that he should be able to keep them in check without effusion of blood; and fell the victim of his humanity. In a very short time a shower of stones, thrown from a small distance with as much force as from a sling, struck almost every one of those who were in the long-boat. M. De Langle had only time to fire his two shot, when he was knocked down, and unfortunately fell over the larboard side of the boat, where more than two hun-

dred Indians immediately massacred him with clubs and stones. When he was dead, they tied him by the arm to one of the row-locks of the long-boat, in order, no doubt, to make surer of spoil. The long-boat of the Bouffole, commanded by M. Boutin, was aground at two toises from that of the Astrolabe, leaving, in a parallel line between them, a little channel unoccupied by the Indians. It was by that channel that all the wounded, who had the good fortune not to fall on the other side, saved themselves by swimming. They got on board the barges, which, having most fortunately been kept afloat, were the means of saving forty-nine persons out of the sixty-one of which the party consisted. M. Boutin had imitated all the movements, and followed every step of M. De Langle: his water-casks, his detachment, all his people, had been embarked at the same time, and placed in the same manner, and he occupied the same post in the bow of the boat. Although afraid of the bad consequences of M. De Langle's moderation, he did not take upon him to order his detachment to fire till after M. De Langle had begun. It may be supposed that, at the distance of four or five yards, every shot must have killed an Indian, but there was no time to reload. M. Boutin was likewise knocked down by a stone, and, by good fortune, fell between the two long-boats, on board of which not a single man remained in less than five minutes. Those who saved themselves by swimming to the two barges, had received several wounds each, almost all on the head: those, on the contrary, who were unfortunate enough to fall over on the side of the Indians, were instantly dispatched by their clubs. But the rage for plunder was such, that the islanders hastened to get possession of the long-boats, and jumped on board, to the number of three or four hundred, tearing up the seats, and breaking the inside to pieces, in order to seek for our supposed riches. While this was going on, they no longer paid much attention to the barges, which gave time to Messieurs de Vaujuas and Mouton to save the rest of our people, and to ascertain that nobody remained in the hands of the Indians but

but those who had been massacred and killed in the water by the blows of their *patois*.

"The crews of the barges, who till then had fired upon the islanders, and killed a good many, now began to throw their water-casks overboard, in order that every body might find room. They had, besides, almost exhausted their ammunition; and their retreat was become a matter of some difficulty, with such a number of persons dangerously wounded, who lay stretched out upon the thwarts, and hindered the working of the oars. To the prudence of M. Vaujuas, to the good order which he established, and to the strict discipline kept up by M. Mouton, who commanded the *Bouffole's* barge, we were indebted for the preservation of the forty-nine persons of both crews who escaped. M. Boutin, who had five wounds on the head, and one in the breast, was kept above water by the cockswain of the long-boat, who was himself wounded. M. Colinet was found lying in a state of insensibility upon the grapnel-rope of the barge, having an arm fractured, a finger broken, and two wounds on the head. M. Lavaux, surgeon-major of the *Astrolabe*, was so grievously wounded, that he was obliged to suffer the operation of the trepan. He had, however, swum to the barges, as well as M. De la Martinière, and father Receveur, who had received a violent contusion on the eye. M. De Lamanon and M. De Langle were massacred with unexampled barbarity, with Talin, master at arms of the *Bouffole*, and nine other persons belonging to the two crews. The savage Indians, after having killed them, still continued to wreak their fury upon the inanimate bodies with their clubs. M. Le Gobien, who commanded the *Astrolabe's* long-boat under the orders of M. De Langle, did not abandon his post, till he found himself entirely alone. After having exhausted his ammunition, he leaped into the water, on the side of the little channel left between the two boats, which, as I have said above, was unoccupied by the Indians; and notwithstanding his wounds, found means to save himself on board one of the barges. That of the *Astrolabe* was so deeply laden, that it grounded. This event inspired the natives with the idea of disturbing the wounded in their retreat. They came down accordingly in great

numbers towards the reefs at the entrance, within ten feet of which the barges were necessarily obliged to pass: the little ammunition that remained was exhausted upon the infuriated crowd; and at length the boats extricated themselves from a place, more dreadful on account of its deceitful situation and the cruelty of its inhabitants, than the dens of wild beasts.

"At five o'clock they came on board, and informed us of this disastrous event. We had round us at that moment not less than a hundred canoes, in which the natives were selling their provisions with a security which sufficiently proved their innocence. But they were the brothers, the children, the countrymen, of the barbarous assassins; and I confess that it was necessary to call up all my reason to repress the anger that transported me, and to hinder the crew from putting them to death. The soldiers were already casting loose the guns, and laying hold of their muskets. I stopped these movements, which were, however, pardonable enough; and ordered a single gun loaded with powder to be fired, as a warning to the canoes to depart. A small boat that came from the coast, informed them, without doubt, of what had just passed; for in less than an hour not a canoe remained in sight. An Indian who was upon the quarter-deck when our barge came on board, was arrested by my orders, and put in irons. The next day, having approached the coast, I permitted him to jump overboard, the confidence with which he had remained on board being an unequivocal proof of his innocence.

"My first project was to send another party on shore to revenge the death of our unfortunate companions, and to recover the wrecks of our boats. With that intention I stood to the westward in search of an anchorage; but I found nothing but the same bottom of coral, with a swell that set in shore, and broke upon the reefs. The creek in which the massacre took place, was besides very deeply indented in the side of the island, and it did not appear possible to approach it within cannon-shot. M. Boutin, whose wound confined him to his bed, but who retained the full command of his mind, represented to me also, that the situation of the bay was such, that if our boats should unfortunately run aground (a thing

thing very possible), not a single man would return alive; for the trees, which are close to the sea-side, while protecting the Indians against our musketry, would leave the men whom we might debark exposed to a shower of stones, so much the more difficult to avoid, as, being thrown with uncommon force and address, they produced almost the same effect as our bullets, and had the advantage of succeeding one another with greater rapidity. M. De Vaujuas was of the same opinion. I would not, however, accede to it, till I had fully ascertained the impossibility of anchoring within gun-shot of the village. I passed two days in working to windward opposite the bay; and could perceive the wrecks of our long-boats aground upon the sand, and round them an immense number of Indians. What will no doubt appear incredible is, that during this time five or six canoes came off from the shore with hogs, pigeons, and cocoa-nuts, to offer us in exchange. I was obliged every moment to curb my anger, lest I should give orders to send them to the bottom. The Indians, not knowing that we had any arms of longer range than our muskets, remained without the least apprehension at fifty toises distance from the ships, and offered us their provisions with great apparent security. Our gestures gave them no encouragement to approach, and in this way they passed a whole hour in the afternoon of the 12th of December. Their offers of barter were succeeded by rallery, and ere long I perceived several other canoes quit the beach in order to join them. As they had no suspicion of the range of our guns, and as every thing indicated that I should soon be forced to depart from my principles of moderation, I ordered a shot to be fired into the midst of them. My orders were executed with the utmost precision. The ball dashed the water into the canoes, and they instantly made the best of their way to the shore, being joined in their flight by those that had left the beach a little while before.

"It was with difficulty that I could tear myself from this fatal spot, and leave the dead bodies of our murdered companions. In M. De Langle I lost an old friend, a man of sense, judgment, and information, and one of the best officers in the French navy. His humanity was the cause of his death.

Had he allowed himself to fire upon the first Indians who came into the water in order to surround his boats, he would have saved his own life, and those of M. De Lamanon and ten other victims of Indian ferocity. There were besides twenty persons belonging to the two frigates grievously wounded; this event deprived us for the moment of thirty-two hands, and two long-boats, the only ones we had capable of containing a sufficient number of armed men to attempt a descent. These considerations were the guide of my future conduct. The smallest check would have forced me to burn one of the two frigates to man the other. I had indeed the frame of a long-boat on board; but could not put it together without going into port. If, to satisfy my revenge, I had only wished for the massacre of a few Indians, I had an opportunity of destroying, sinking, and blowing to pieces, a hundred canoes, containing more than five hundred persons; but I was afraid of being mistaken in the choice of my victims; and the voice of conscience saved their lives. Those whom this narrative may remind of the catastrophe of Captain Cook should bear in mind, that his ships were anchored in the bay of Karakakooa; that their guns rendered them masters of the beach; and that they could give the law to the Indians by threatening to destroy the canoes that remained at the water-side, as well as the villages that skirted the coast. We, on the contrary, were at sea, out of gun-shot, and obliged to keep off the coast, where a calm might have been attended with the greatest danger. A heavy swell drifted us constantly towards the reefs, outside of which we might, without doubt, have anchored with iron chains; but still we should have been out of gun-shot of the village, besides that the swell was sufficient to cut our cable at the hawse-holes, and thereby to expose us to the most imminent hazard. I exhausted every calculation of probability before I left this fatal island; being at length convinced that anchoring was impracticable, and that a descent unsupported by the frigates would be rashness in the extreme. Even success would have been useless, since it was certain that not a single man remained alive in the hands of the Indians, and that our boats, which

we

we had the means of replacing, were broken to pieces and aground." Vol. iii. p. 79.

(To be concluded in our next.)

LXXVI. *A Tour through the Island of Man, in 1797 and 1798*; comprising Sketches of its ancient and modern History, Constitution, Laws, Commerce, Agriculture, Fishery, &c. including whatever is remarkable in each Parish, its Population, Inscriptions, Registers, &c. By JOHN FELTHAM. Embellished with a Map of the Island and other Plates. 8vo. 7s. pp. 294. Cruttwell, Bath; Dilly, London.

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Tombs—Douglas—Friendly Societies—Fifhery—Former naval Strength—Light-houses and new Pier—Seats—Nunnery—Kirk Oncan—Prices of Provision and Labour—Views—Lady Bulk's Tomb—Inns—Of the Methodists—Their present State—Kirk Lonan—Laxey—Mines—Treasure Trove—Old Church—Kirk Christ Rushen—Mines—Calf—Port Iron—A new Discovery on Fish—Kirk Arbory—Singular Epitaph—On R. Cottier's Wife—Kirk Santon—Bridges—Antiquities—Grazing Terms—Rot in Sheep—Longevity—Remarks on this Work—Malew—Turnip Tillage—Inscriptions—Castle-town—Castle Rushen—New Chapel—Free School—St. Michael's Island—Ballasalla—Rushen Abbey—Mount Strange—Criminal Law—Sketches of History—Appendix—Act of Settlement—Explanatory Act—Postscript.

EXTRACTS.

PEDESTRIAN TRAVELLING.

LETTER I.

To Wm. H—s, Esq. M. D. Spital-Square.

"DEAR SIR, *Salisbury, 1798.*

"AT length I gratify my wishes, by sending you, in a collected form, the observations I made last summer during my tour through the Island of Man. Mr. H—s, who resided in Ramsay, induced me to accompany him thither; and joining him at Bristol, we proceeded on foot to Liverpool.

"Moritz, a German, whose excursion in England is translated, observes, 'That a traveller on foot in England is considered as a sort of wild man, or an out-of-the-way being, who is stared at, pitied, suspected, and shunned, by every body that meets him.'

"I have felt the truth of these remarks. On his asking why Englishmen, so fond of acting up to their own notions and ideas, did not now and then, merely to see life in every point of view, *travel on foot?* the answer made was, 'We are too rich, too lazy, and too proud.'

"Since this, we have done something to retrieve our characters.

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have the happiness of knowing several gentlemen, who take considerable pleasure in walking, and others, whose excursions are before the public.

"Mr. Hucks, in his Tour through Wales, 1794, says, 'We are so completely metamorphosed, that I much doubt if you would recognise us through our disguise: we carry our clothes, &c. in a wallet or knapsack, from which we have not hitherto experienced the slightest inconvenience: as for all appearance and gentility, they are entirely out of the question—our object is to see, not to be seen; and if I thought I had one acquaintance, who would be ashamed of me and my knapsack, seated by the fire-side of an honest Welch peasant in a country village, I should not only make myself easy on my own account, but should be induced to pity and to despise him for his weakness.'

"I shall now notice other modes adopted by pedestrians, in long excursions.—The Rev. Mr. Warner ('Walk through Wales,' 1798, 8vo.) had a *spencer* fitted up with a large sportsman's pocket to carry his linen, &c. and Mr. C. who accompanied him, had side-pockets annexed to his coat; but neither answered perfectly their wishes.

"A party whom they met had taken another way: a handsome leather bag covered with net-work was suspended from the shoulder, and hung under the left arm like a shooting bag, and proved no inelegant addition to the person.

"Another party had their portmanteau on a little poney which they kept before them; but this was, it seems, 'more plague than profit;' and they soon entered into a treaty for its sale.

"It is requisite that a walker should have about him all his real necessities; these are but few, a single change of linen, a pocket map, compass, &c. which take but little space, and may be provided for thus:—A small neat bag made with oil-case and lined, about fifteen inches every way, made to button deep to prevent rain from penetrating, and four buttons to fasten two shoulder-belts, will form a knapsack of small weight and attended with no inconvenience, except the false shame which may arise from its pedlar-like appearance, but which good sense will soon overcome; but to secure you a polite reception and a better bed, you may carry it in your handkerchief

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through a town. This size is large enough for two persons, although it must not be less for one; a light small umbrella would be a desirable addition." P. 1.

THE ISLAND OF MAN.

"THE name of Man is supposed to refer to its situation as to the surrounding kingdoms, from the Saxon word *Mang*, signifying *among*; others suppose the word to originate from *Maune*, the name of St. Patrick, the apostle of the island, before he assumed that of *Patricius*. By Cæsar it is called *Mona**; by the inhabitants *Manning*; and by people in general *Man*.

"Its ancient bearing was a ship; but the arms are now, and have been for centuries, Gules, three armed legs proper, or rather argent, conjoined in fess, at the upper part of the thigh, fished in triangle, garnished and spurred topaz. So long as the King of Man wrote *Rex Manniæ et Insularum*, they bore the ship; but when the Scots had possession, with the Western islands, the legs were substituted. It is said of the three legs, that with the *toe* of the one they spurn at Ireland, with the *spur* of the other they kick at Scotland, and with the third they bow to England.

"It is supposed that the first inhabitants were British; and that they were succeeded by the Druids until the fourth century, when Christianity was introduced into this island." P. 7.

LAWS OF THE ISLAND.

"AMONG the laws of the island we find the following, some of which are singular.

"No action of arrest shall be granted against a landed man, or native of this isle, to imprison or hold him to bail, unless he has obtained the governor's pass, or that there is some other just cause to believe he designs to go off the island; and that any person prosecuted for a foreign debt by an action of arrest, shall be held to bail

only for his personal appearance to such action, and for the forth-coming of what effects he hath within this island.

"If any man die, the widow to have one half of all his goods, and half the tenement in which she lives during her widowhood, if his first wife; and one quarter, if the second or third wife. The eldest daughter inherits, if there be no son, though there be other children.

"If a man gets a maid with child, and then within a year or two after doth marry her, such child is judged to be legitimate by our laws.

"Persons beating another violently, beside punishment and charges of cure, are fined 10s. But if the person so beat used upbraiding and provoking language so as to cause such beating, they are to be fined 13s. 4d. and to be imprisoned."

"An ancient ordinance says, 'There ought to be *corbs* pertaining to a man, as if his father hath a pan, the son to have it; or else his best jack and sallet; bow and arrows (commanded by stat. of 1748 † for the modern weapons of war), his best board, and best stool; his coultter and rackentree; his best cup, if it be wood and bound with silver and gilt; his best chest. For a woman, the best wheel and cards, rackentree; a sack, or else a Manks spade; the best bead of jet or amber; the best broach; the best cross; the best pot or pan.

"If any man take a woman (Tem-poral custom. laws, 1577) by constraint, or force her against her will; if she be a wife he must suffer the law for her: if she be a maid or single woman, the deemster shall give her a rope, a sword, and a ring, and she shall have her choice, either to hang with the rope, cut off his head with the sword, or marry him with the ring." Report says that every complainant has been lenient, except one, who presented the *rope*; but relented on the prisoner being tucked up, and desired he might be let down. She then presented the *ring*, but the man

* "All late writers agree that *Mona Cæsaris* is Man; but *Mona Taciti* belongs to Anglesey. Early authors call it *Monada*, *Menavia Secunda* (to distinguish it from Anglesey), *Eubonia*, &c. The Manks derive it traditionally from Manna Man Maclea, an early king, who first conquered the island."

† "By the said statute, protestants are allowed to keep fire-arms, which are to descend to their heirs and assigns, in place of the ancient weapons of war called *corbs*, and be a full satisfaction for the same."

replied,

replied, 'That one punishment was enough for one crime; therefore he should keep the ring for some future occasion.'

"Wives have a power to make their wills (though their husbands be living) of one half of all the goods; except in the six northern parishes, where the wife, if she has had children, can only dispose of a third part of the living goods. Tradition says, the South-side ladies obtained this superior privilege, by affixing their husbands in a day of battle.

"Executors of spiritual men have a right to the year's profits, if they live till after twelve o'clock on Easter-day.

"They retain the usage (observed by the Saxons before the conquest), that the bishop, or some priest appointed by him, do always sit in their great court

along with the governor, till sentence of death (if any) is to be pronounced; the deemster asking the jury, instead of guilty or not guilty—*Fal fir charree foie?* which is, 'May the man of the chancel, or he that ministers at the altar, continue to sit?'

"Mortgages must be recorded within six months; and by the laws of the island, all mortgagees are empowered, at the expiration of five years from the date of their mortgage, to take possession of the lands granted in mortgage, and retain the same until the mortgage is paid off, setting the lands yearly by public auction, and crediting the mortgager with the rent. Notwithstanding which the mortgager has a right at any time to pay off the mortgage within twenty-one years." P. 141.

(To be concluded in our next.)

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